



# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

## *Office of Public Information*

contact: Marcia McBrien | (313) 972-3219 or (517) 373-0129

### JUDGE MARTIN DOCTOROFF MOURNED, REMEMBERED FOR 'LOVE OF LAW'

LANSING, MI, July 9, 2002 – Court of Appeals Judge Martin M. Doctoroff, who served as Chief Judge of that court from 1992-97, was “a fine judge and a man of great courage,” said Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan.

The Supreme Court learned earlier today that Doctoroff passed away at his Troy home. He was 69.

In June, Doctoroff resigned effective Sept. 1, citing his battle with Lou Gehrig’s Disease. In a letter to Court of Appeals Chief Judge William Whitbeck, Doctoroff said he made the decision to resign with “a deep sense of sorrow and personal regret.”

“It has become clear to me that, within the near future, I will need to devote significantly more of my energy to fighting the disease from which I suffer, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis,” Doctoroff wrote. “Second, I am concerned that my deteriorating physical condition may ultimately affect my ability to fully and meaningfully perform ... my constitutional duties as a judge. I would be loathe to remain on the bench, if and when that moment were to come.”

Corrigan, who served on the Court of Appeals while Doctoroff was chief judge there, said that Doctoroff’s letter “says so much about his respect for and love of the law. He held sacred his constitutional duties, and his dedication was never more evident than when he made the decision to relinquish the work he loved.”

Doctoroff was appointed to the appeals court by then-Gov. James Blanchard in 1987 and elected in 1988, 1992 and 1998. He had a bachelor's degree from Harvard College and a law degree from the University of Michigan.

Corrigan said, “On behalf of my Court, I extend to the Doctoroff family our profound sympathies. Six of the seven Justices on this Court served with Judge Doctoroff as judges of the Court of Appeals, and all of us knew him and worked with him. We have lost a respected colleague and a leader in the Michigan legal community. But we are the richer for his legacy of personal courage and love of the justice system.”

\*\*\*\*\*